



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/989, 507	12/12/97	BRIES	53691 USA 8A

EXAMINER

N. AHMAD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1772

7

DATE MAILED:

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Nasser Ahmad

(3) Mr. James L. Bries

(2) Mr. David B. Patchett

(4)

Date of interview April 8, 1999

Type: Telephonic Personal (copy is given to applicant applicant's representative).Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: Yes No If yes, brief description: Displayed separable tape with adhesive-free tab portion and stretchable. Also showed TESA tapeAgreement was reached. was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: ALL

Identification of prior art discussed: KOBE, KRECKEL.

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant discussed differences from Kobe tape in having adhesive-free tab portion and elongation at break. Also discussed cohesion properties of the instant claimed tape. A copy of proposed amendment is attached.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

1. It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary. A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an attachment to another form.

PATENT
Docket No.: 53691USA8A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Group Art Unit: 1772

)
James L. Bries and Michael D. Hamerski) Exr: Nasser Ahmad

)
Serial No.: 08/989,507)
)

)
Filed: December 12, 1997)
)

)
For: REMOVABLE ADHESIVE TAPE)
LAMINATE AND SEPARABLE)
FASTENER)
)

Certificate of First Class Mailing

Under 37 CFR § 1.81, I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date noted below.

Signed _____

David B. Patchett

Date of Deposit: _____

DRAFT
PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 13, 1999, please amend this application as set forth below.

In the Specification

Page 5, line 18, after "tape." insert:

-- A suitable stretch releasable backing layer is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/308,937 (Bries et al.) which provides a backing comprising a layer of

polymeric foam having a lengthwise elongation at break of from about 50% to about 1200%. --

Page 25, line 20, after "reference." insert:

-- The stretch releasable adhesive strip described in U.S. Patent Application No. 08/308,937 (Bries et al.) has a lengthwise elongation at break of from about 50% to about 1200%. --

In the Claims

Please add the following new claims:

-- 41. (new) A reusable separable adhesive tape for attaching plural objects to one another, comprising:

- (a) a stretchable first backing layer having first and second major surfaces and first and second ends, said first end including a manually engageable tab portion to facilitate stretching of said first backing layer, said backing layer having a lengthwise elongation at break of from about 50% to about 1200%, said backing layer including an adhesive surface over at least a portion of said first major surface for bonding to a surface of an object; and
- (b) a separable connector surface covering at least a portion of said second major surface of said first backing layer, said separable connector surface possessing the ability to be connected, disconnected, and reconnected to a cooperating connection surface without destruction of the separable connection surface and the adhesive tape;

wherein said first backing layer and said adhesive surface are stretchable together to effect progressive debonding of the adhesive surface from an object, after the adhesive surface is bonded to that object, by the application of a force to the manually engageable tab portion in a direction of extension. --

-- 42. (new) A reusable separable adhesive tape for attaching plural objects to one another, comprising:

- (a) a stretchable first backing layer having first and second major surfaces and first and second ends, said first end including a manually engageable tab portion to facilitate stretching of said first backing layer, said backing layer including an adhesive surface over at least a portion of said first major surface for bonding to a surface of an object; and
- (b) a separable connector surface covering at least a portion of said second major surface of said first backing layer, said separable connector surface possessing the ability to be connected, disconnected, and reconnected to a cooperating connection surface without destruction of the separable connection surface and the adhesive tape;

wherein said first backing layer and said adhesive surface are stretchable together by the application of a force to the manually engageable tab portion in a direction of extension at an angle no greater than about 35° from the object without the backing layer rupturing prior to the removal of the tape from the object and without leaving substantial pressure-sensitive adhesive residue on the object to effect progressive debonding of the adhesive surface from an object. --

-- 43. (new) A separable adhesive tape as defined in claim 41, wherein said first backing layer and said adhesive surface comprise:

- (a) a central layer having opposite major surfaces;
- (b) film layers bonded along said central layer opposite major surfaces; and
- (c) adhesive layers adhered along at least a portion of said film layers. --

-- 44. (new) A separable adhesive tape as defined in claim 41, wherein said first backing layer and said adhesive surface comprise a single layer of pressure sensitive adhesive. --

-- 45. (new) A reusablely separable adhesive tape for attaching plural objects to one another, comprising:

- (a) a stretchable first backing layer having first and second major surfaces and first and second ends, said first end including a first manually engageable tab portion to facilitate stretching of said first backing layer, said first backing layer having a lengthwise elongation at break of from about 50% to about 1200%, said first backing layer including a first adhesive surface over at least a portion of said first major surface for bonding to a surface of an object;
- (b) a stretchable second backing layer having first and second major surfaces and first and second ends, said first end including a second manually engageable tab portion to facilitate stretching of said second backing layer, said second backing layer having a lengthwise elongation at break of from about 50% to about 1200%, said second backing layer including a second adhesive surface over at least a portion of

said first major surface for bonding to a surface of an object;
and

- (c) a separable connector arranged between said first and said second backing layers possessing the ability to be connected, disconnected, and reconnected without destruction of said separable connector;

wherein said first backing layer and said first adhesive surface are stretchable together to effect progressive debonding of said first adhesive surface from an object, after said first adhesive surface is bonded to that object, by the application of a force to said first manually engageable tab portion in a direction of extension, and further wherein said second backing layer and said second adhesive surface are stretchable together to effect progressive debonding of said second adhesive surface from an object, after said second adhesive surface is bonded to that object, by the application of a force to said second manually engageable tab portion in a direction of extension. --

Remarks

Claims ? have been canceled, claims ? have been amended, and claims ? have been added. Claims ? now stand in the application.

The specification has been amended to more specifically set forth the characteristics of the adhesive tape strips, namely, the thickness of the backing, the elongation at break of the backing, and the removal angle. Support for this amendment appears at page 1, line 26 - page 2, line 6 of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/308,937 (Bries et al.) which is incorporated by reference into the present application at page 25, line 17-20.

Support for the tabs appears on page 9, lines 17-29 of the specification. Support for removal angle appears at page 28, lines 21-23. Support for single layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive appears at page 9, line 6.